

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

:
: F A M I N E C A M P A I G N R O U N D U P :
:

WORLD FOOD BOARD PROPOSED

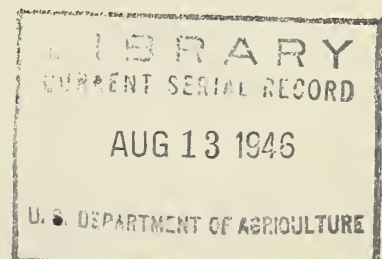
A World Food Board intended to round out existing intergovernment machinery is part of the long-range world food plan which will be presented by Sir John Boyd Orr, FAO director-general, to the second session of the Food and Agriculture Organization conference opening in Copenhagen September 2.

Purpose of the Board's operations would be to insure that sufficient food is produced and distributed to bring the consumption of all people up to a health standard. The Board might be a new international agency or a part of FAO if certain parts of the organization's constitution were altered.

The World Food Board would:

1. Stabilize prices of agricultural markets on world markets, including provision of the necessary funds for stabilizing operations.
2. Establish a world food reserve adequate for any emergency that might arise through failure of crops in any part of the world.
3. Provide funds for financing the disposal of surplus agricultural products on special terms to countries where the need for them is most urgent.
4. Cooperate with organizations concerned with international credits for industrial and agricultural development, and with trade and commodity policy, to achieve common ends more quickly and effectively.

The proposal is that the World Food Board operate through commodity committees with the power to hold stocks of the most important commodities. It would buy into its stock when the world price of a product fell below announced minimum prices and sell from its stock when the price exceeded the maximums. A revolving fund would implement the plan.



Since existing temporary international food organizations go out of existence in 1947, the director-general will ask that a committee appointed by the conference work out details of the plan and complete its report by the end of the year.

Basic world food problems are described as "the financial one of increasing the purchasing power of the people who are unable to obtain sufficient food for their needs," the need for increased world food production and for expanded international markets without the violent price fluctuations of the past.

* * * *

ONLY ONE-THIRD OF WORLD ADEQUATELY FED

Only one-third of the world's people normally get enough to eat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has revealed. In peace years just before the war, half of the people were seriously undernourished, while one-sixth were eating at marginal level.

These figures were given in a World Food Survey, prepared for delegates to the first annual FAO conference at Copenhagen in September. The survey presents estimates of available food in each country from 1935 to 1939, and matches them against proper nutritional programs.

The report was designed as a starting point for FAO's future scientific and economic work, as well as the background for the long-range world food policy proposals to be submitted to the conference.

Daily average caloric consumption per person from 1935 to 1939 varied throughout the world from 3,281 in New Zealand to 1,904 in Korea, the survey states. Other countries with an average of more than 3,000 calories daily were the United States, Canada, Eire, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, France, Argentina, and Australia. Countries with a daily average of less than 2,000 calories were Iran, Iraq, Trans-Jordan, El Salvador, Mexico, and Colombia.

In general, the high-caloric areas included North America, Oceania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, much of Europe, and three countries of South America. The low-caloric areas included most of Asia, part of the Middle East, and all of Central America.

"It is evident," the report states, "that about half the world's population was subsisting before the war at a level of food consumption which was not high enough to maintain normal health, allow for normal growth of children, or furnish enough energy for normal work....."

"Poverty is the chief cause of malnutrition. The countries in which the supply of calories was less than 2,250 a day were countries in which the average per capita income was less than \$100 a year."

Average caloric figures, the report points out, do not bring out the many sharp differences between people who obtain considerably more than the average and those who obtain considerably less. Neither do they reflect local differences in the food supply, which often are wide, nor, by any means tell the whole story of the nutritional value of diets. However, most countries with average caloric consumption of around 3,000 or more had well balanced diets.

In general, 2,600 calories a day per person are regarded by the FAO as a minimum to seek. In countries where the prewar average was lower, the target is to raise it to 2,600. In countries where the average was 2,600 or better, the aim is for no change in energy value but an improvement in the quality of diet.

To properly feed the world, tremendous increases in food production will be needed, the report declared.

Assuming a gain of 25 percent in world population by 1960, the following increases in world food production would be required:

| <u>Commodity</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Cereals | 21 |
| Roots and tubers | 27 |
| Sugar | 12 |
| Fats | 34 |
| Pulses (peas and beans) | 80 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 163 |
| Meat | 46 |
| Milk | 100 |

The indicated 21 percent increase in cereals covers direct human consumption only. The additional amounts of animal products called for by the targets would require further large increases in grain production.

* * * *

WHEAT STILL NEEDED BY UNRRA

UNRRA still wants as much bread grain and fats as possible, and cutbacks in purchases for the agency will not affect general procurement of these types of food. Only for certain specialized items will procurement of grain products be affected, the Department of Agriculture has announced.

Reductions in UNRRA food purchases of higher-cost items -- principally meat and dairy products -- are the result of the agency's need to obtain foods with the highest caloric value for the remaining funds budgeted for food.

Major commodities affected by the procurement adjustments are: Canned meat, dried milk, cheese, canned milk, dry edible peas, palm kernel oil, edible tallow, and canned fish. The Department will try to substitute additional lard for the tallow that will be cancelled.

Purchases of dairy products for the British and French programs will not be affected by cutbacks in purchases for UNRRA's account.

* * * *

CEILING PRICES ANNOUNCED ON WHEAT PURCHASES

Purchases of wheat for export will continue to be made by USDA on the basis of ceiling prices in effect June 30. To August 6, about 28 million bushels of 1946-crop wheat had been purchased.

Ceilings at basic terminal markets on June 30 were:

No. 2 hard winter and No. 2 soft red winter, \$1.955 track Chicago,
No. 1 dark northern spring, \$1.875 track Minneapolis and Duluth,
No. 2 hard winter, \$1.85 5/8 track Kansas City,
No. 2 hard winter, \$1.95 5/8 track Galveston,
No. 1 hard winter and No. 1 soft white, \$1.85 5/8 Portland, Oregon.

Applicable earned markups and elevations as determined by the PMA Grain Branch field office directors will be added to the track prices. Public notice of changes in wheat purchase prices will be given 24 hours in advance, but no notice will be issued on any Saturday, Sunday, or market holiday.

* * * *

JAPANESE CROP OUTLOOK BRIGHTER: U. S. REDUCES AID

Brighter prospects for the 1946 Japanese rice crop were said by diplomatic officials to be the major reason why the United States plans to reduce food shipments to Japan, according to an Associated Press dispatch.

Deliveries of cereals, beans, peas, sugar, and fats will average about 125,000 tons monthly during the rest of the year, compared with a monthly average of 140,000 tons for March through July.

Wheat, flour, and corn totaling 100,000 tons will make up the bulk of future monthly shipments. Beans and peas will amount to another 20,000 tons monthly; sugar, 4,000; and fats and oils, 1,500 tons.

From March through July, the U. S. sent 700,000 tons of all kinds of food to the Japanese, nearly four-fifths of it wheat and flour equivalent.

* * * * *

JULY GRAIN EXPORTS

Grain and grain products exported by the United States in July totaled 942,000 long tons (35,570,000 bushels). This total included: wheat, 512,000 tons; flour, 279,000 tons; corn, 37,000 tons; and corn products, 114,000 tons. About 6,000 long tons of Canadian wheat milled in bond was shipped, raising total shipments from the U. S. to 948,000 tons.

Largest shipments were for UNRRA countries with a total of 255,000 long tons. The British Empire other than India (including the British Zone in Germany) received 205,000 long tons, and U. S. Occupation Zones, 130,000 tons. India received 69,000 tons.

Through July 31, about 6,978,000 long tons of grain and grain products have been exported this year to foreign countries, including approximately 204,000 tons of Canadian wheat milled in bond in the United States.

Tonnages shipped by months were: January, 1,235,000; February, 995,000; March, 954,000; April, 782,000; May, 622,000; June, 1,442,000; and July, 948,000.

Shipments authorized for August total 1,001,000 long tons, which will include wheat, flour, and oats.

* * * * *

UNRRA REPORTS

- *** The caloric value of the daily diet for a normal consumer in Czechoslovakia increased slightly during July largely due to UNRRA foodstuffs and home-produced foods from gardens. Daily food consumption rose from 1,603 to 1,753 calories. A contribution of 1,500 carloads of vegetables and fruits was made to UNRRA by the Czechoslovakian Government.
- *** UNRRA will aid Greece in its urgently needed reforestation program. Greek forests suffered heavily from the war, and this UNRRA assistance is part of the program of agricultural rehabilitation which will cover irrigation, drainage, soil conservation, and other needed items.
- *** In a letter to a Czech newspaper, a Czechoslovakian wrote that UNRRA was forcing him to learn English. The labels on UNRRA food intrigued him so that he bought an English-Czech dictionary. Now he knows 37 words in English.
- *** The normal consumer in Vienna saw his rations drop to 1,161 calories during the latter part of July. UNRRA points out that this is in sharp contrast to the 3,000 to 3,500 daily caloric intake of the average American and the 2,650 deemed essential to good health.
- *** A famine survey in China indicates that there are possibly 6 million people in Kwangsi province and 10 million in south Hunan province who are rapidly becoming physically weakened as a result of acute starvation. Many are now dying. While most of the people are too poor to help the even more destitute, there is not enough stored food available at any price. In south Hunan only 60 to 80 percent of the crop will be harvested because of damaged irrigation facilities, labor shortage, scarcity of insecticides, and water buffalo feed. In north Kwangsi only 25 percent of the normal cropland was planted this year.
- *** Austrian crop prospects are unfavorable due to lack of fertilizer, late arrival of seed, and severe drought up to the middle of June. Estimates of crops this year compared with 1947 show bread grains, 55 percent; pulses, 49 percent; potatoes, 62 percent; sugar beets, 38 percent; and milk production, 57 percent.
- *** The 1946 Polish grain harvest will be about 9 percent above the one last year. However, this increase is expected to be absorbed by reserves for planting a larger acreage next year and larger consumption by the farm population.
- *** Because more than half Hungary's livestock were lost during the war, together with large numbers of tractors and implements, 15 percent of the country's tillable land remained uncultivated this year. In terms of prewar production, the current harvest is estimated at 60 to 70 percent for grains, 40 percent for sugar beets, and 70 percent for potatoes.

:
: ACTION :
:

Harvest Festivals to Climax 1946 Victory Gardens

Mayors of 3,000 cities throughout the Nation are being asked to mobilize civic leaders to hold Harvest Festivals within the next 2 or 3 months. These community festivals are to climax the 1946 home garden and food preservation activities. They will feature competitive displays of home-grown and home-canned fruits and vegetables.

Paul C. Stark, executive director of the National Famine Emergency Committee, has announced that the National Garden Institute will furnish free of charge a certificate of award for the person selected as top winner in each local Harvest Show. These awards are in addition to the trophy award to be furnished to the woman selected as State canning champion in each participating State.

* * * *

Home Food Preservation

Although the latest BAE report on the vegetable situation gives an optimistic outlook for commercially-canned stocks, there should be no letdown on home and community canning drives. Even if the 1946 output approaches the record 1942 commercial pack, pipelines are generally empty and demand high, due to high purchasing power and better eating habits during war years.

* * * *

Industrial Cooperation

Reports from Rhode Island indicate effective conservation programs in industrial plants having on-the-job food services. Particular mention is given the plants of the U. S. Rubber Company, Gorham Manufacturing Company, American Standard Watch Case Company, Coro Inc., Fram Corporation, and Owens-Corning Fibreglas Corporation.

As a sample of conservation activities, the last-named corporation reports:

1. "Fight Famine" posters used throughout the plant.
2. Photo displays at plant entrance with an endorsement of the campaign by the company.
3. Exhibit at entrance to cafeteria, where daily menu is displayed. Typical diets of England, Poland, and Italy, contrasted with American, with cutouts from Life magazine from which the diet lists were taken.
4. In cafeteria, bread and rolls served only on request; open-faced sandwiches; only one slice of bread.

The July 15 issue of "News", pictorial magazine of the Johns-Mansville Corporation, devotes the entire back page to pictorial descriptions of how "J-M" folks are cooperating in the food conservation campaign.

* * * *

Large-City Activities

Many large-city committees have driven ahead with strong summer programs, as indicated in regular reports to the Office of Emergency Food Programs.

Proof that the work of the local Famine Emergency Committees and food industry groups has been effective is indicated in a Kansas City Star report that consumption of bread in that city has been less than in several years past. The newspaper stated:

** "Nearly every housewife is thoughtful in shopping for bread, is the report in all major stores.

** "Not a complaint of any sort was registered by any of the bakeries, indeed, the officials seemed proud that the public has responded to the appeal to save bread for starving Europeans."

This report is strengthened by the fact that Kansas City experienced a prolonged shutdown of most bakeries during a strike in early summer, and even those bakeries which operated throughout the strike give credit to the consumer for reducing bread consumption. Flour sales in stores indicate that there has been no increase in home baking.

Current reports from large-city committees tell of these activities:

BALTIMORE - The local committee went all-out in bringing "National Home Food Preservation Week" to the city's attention. A full-page ad was inserted in a newspaper reaching all Baltimore Homes, and 50,000 copies of a circular were distributed.

OMAHA - The Red Cross sponsored a canning booth in a large department store and stationed its mobile canteen downtown, in support of "Home Food Preservation Week." Recipes, literature, and advice on canning were distributed. A peacetime Garden Display was sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

ST. LOUIS - A comprehensive campaign "to conserve grain and fats, increase use of plentiful foods, eliminate food waste, and step up home preservation" is reported by the Citizens Committee. Approximately \$5,000 was subscribed by St. Louis business firms and individuals to carry on the summer campaign.

A letter and pledge were distributed by mail to approximately 350,000 homemakers. The Retailers' Association of St. Louis is sponsoring a series of full-page newspaper advertisements. Food manufacturing and distributing industries, public eating places, churches, civic groups, newspapers, and radio stations are cooperating effectively.

* * * *

A QUERY ANSWERED

The variety of news opinions on world food relief, bumper crops here and abroad, and UNRRA's liquidation has been enough to provoke queries. The reply of Paul C. Stark on August 8 to chairman of the Syracuse, N. Y., Famine Emergency Committee and to others in New Orleans and Pittsburgh may answer questions elsewhere:

"Both the President and Secretary of Agriculture have called attention recently to the fact that relief job is not completed. The Famine Emergency Committee is functioning and will hold a meeting in Washington the latter part of this month. Currently the Committee is appealing to consumers to continue conservation efforts, use of the more plentiful foods, elimination of all waste and maximum preservation of food, not only to reduce the gap between world food needs and supplies but also to help relieve inflationary pressure on food prices. UNRRA is scheduled to suspend operations in Europe at the end of the year, as has been reported. Non-governmental groups are asking for an international agency to continue the work of UNRRA."
